

BPAC RESOLUTION #6-2003

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT OF TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS INITIATIVES, AND ASKING THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RESTORE FULL, GUARANTEED FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS BY STRIKING SECTION 114 FROM H.R. 2989 AND OPPOSING ANY OTHER AMENDMENTS THAT MIGHT BE OFFERED THAT UNDERCUT THE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS PROGRAM

Whereas, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization has established the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to advise it on bicycle/pedestrian matters; and

Whereas, Congress established Transportation Enhancements (TE) in 1991 as a guarantee to America's communities that a small percentage of gas tax dollars would be targeted to small-scale, locally-initiated transportation projects, as part of an effort to create balanced, intermodal transportation networks which address community concerns; and

Whereas, TE is the largest source of federal funding for pedestrian, bicycle and trail facilities, and also beautifies our roadways with landscaping, and protects our scenic and historic resources; and

Whereas, the TE program has supported more than 16,000 local transportation projects in almost every county and Congressional District in the country, making American communities better places to live by inspiring community revitalization, creating safe places to walk and bicycle, restoring historic transportation infrastructure, and sparking hometown pride; and

Whereas, TE accounts for approximately one-and-a-half cents per federal surface transportation dollar, but produces an exceptionally popular program which promotes health, safety, economic development and community pride; and

Whereas, on July 24, 2003, the United States House Appropriations Committee voted to eliminate funding for Transportation Enhancements in Section 114 of the transportation appropriations bill, even as the bill increased highway spending by \$4.5 billion more than the President's request; and

Whereas, the transportation appropriations bill, now known as H.R. 2989, will be voted on by the full House of Representatives in early September, at which time an amendment will be offered to reverse the committee action and restore the funding set-aside for TE; and

Whereas, in addition to the importance of the TE program there is also a strong need for Safe Routes that connect neighborhoods to schools and the need for federal funding to help facilitate the planning and construction of these facilities; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of Miami-Dade County for staff to pursue all available federal funding sources and to use those funds to implement Miami-Dade County's Greenways and Trails plan and to facilitate the coordination among County agencies to take advantage of such funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA:

THAT, the BPAC expresses its unequivocal support of Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to Schools initiatives, and asks the United States House of Representatives to restore full, guaranteed funding for Transportation Enhancements by striking Section 114 from H.R. 2989 and opposing any other amendments that might be offered that undercut the Transportation Enhancements program.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Brett Bibeau, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Amado Leon, and being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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| Brett Bibeau – aye | Bruce Henderson – aye |
| Sheila Boyce – aye | Amado Leon - aye |
| Barry Burak – absent | Ted Silver - aye |
| Brian Hannigan – absent | |

The Chair thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 27th day of August, 2003

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

BY



David Henderson, BPAC Secretariat